

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 – 7 and 9 – 17 are pending herein. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 12, and 15 – 17, have been amended, and are supported by the claims and specification as originally filed. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments.

Claims 4 – 9 are amended as set forth above to address the objection to Claims 4 – 6, 9, 10, 14, and 17. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office reconsider and withdraw this objection.

The Applicants thank Examiner Neway for the courtesies extended during a telephone conference conducted on April 9, 2009. The Applicants appreciate the indication that Claims 1 – 7 and 9 – 17 as set forth above are allowable.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 1 – 6 and 9 – 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101.

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejection. Support for the amendment can be found at least at Page 7, lines 8-12 as originally filed. Claims 2 – 3, and 13 depend from Claim 1. The amendment to Claim 1 renders the rejection of Claims 2 – 3, and 13 moot. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claim 4 has been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejection. Support for the amendment can be found at least at Page 9, lines 1-11 as originally filed. Claims 5 – 6, and 14 depend from Claim 4. The amendment to Claim 4 renders the rejection of Claims 5 – 6, and 14 moot. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claim 9 has been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejection. Support for the amendment can be found at least at Page 14, lines 1-8 as originally filed. The

amendment to Claim 9 renders the Claim 10 rejection moot. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claim 11 has been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §101 rejection. Support for the amendment can be found at least at Page 12, lines 15-28 as originally filed. Claim 12 depends from Claim 11. The amendment to Claim 11 renders the Claim 12 rejection moot. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

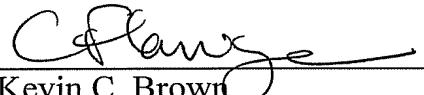
If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

April 9, 2009

Date



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